

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A back protector for motorcyclists comprising an upper support and a lower support, said upper support being vertically aligned with said lower support, said upper support and lower support being provided with means for fixing them to a motorcyclist's body, each of said supports carrying a plurality of substantially rigid elements fixed thereto, said lower support being hinged to said upper support.

2. (Amended) The back protector as claimed in claim 1, wherein said rigid elements comprise plates having a strengthening grid of ribs provided at one surface thereof.

3. (Amended) The back protector as claimed in claim 2, wherein the plates of each support are connected together mechanically by hinge elements.

4. (Amended) The back protector as claimed in claim 1, wherein said upper support contains an intermediate layer of material which provides impact absorption.

5. (Amended) The back protector as claimed in claim 1, wherein said lower support contains an intermediate layer of material which provides impact absorption.

6. (Amended) The back protector as claimed in claim 1, wherein
said upper support is provided with braces.

7. (Amended) The back protector as claimed in claim 1, wherein
said lower support is provided with a belt.

Please add the following claims:

--8. The back protector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the
lower support is hinged to the upper support by a pin.

9. The back protector as claimed in claim 2, wherein the
grid of ribs mutually intersect to form a honeycomb structure.--